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SENATOR ALLARD ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING FOR WATER NEUTRALIZATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT PUEBLO DEPOT

\$20 million in new funding added to Defense Authorization bill for depot

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) announced Monday that the FY 2006 Defense Authorization legislation approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee last Thursday added \$20 million in funding to the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program to be used for the construction of chemical weapons demilitarization facilities in Pueblo, Colorado and Blue Grass, Kentucky, bringing the total amount authorized to \$53 million.

“This funding will be used to accelerate the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Depot and at Blue Grass,” Senator Allard said. “It will keep this program on track and moving forward.”

“The Armed Services Committee recognized that, in order for the United States to meet its treaty obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, more money was needed at Pueblo for construction,” said Senator Allard, who until January was a member of the committee.

The Chemical Weapons Convention requires the U.S. to destroy its stockpiles of chemical weapons by the year 2012.

The U.S. Department of Defense ordered the project at Pueblo to move forward after Senator Allard inserted a provision in the FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Bill last month instructing the department to spend \$100 million in Pueblo and Kentucky within 120 days.

Overall, the Senate Armed Services Committee recommended funding of \$441.6 billion in budget authority for defense programs in FY 2006, an increase of 3.1 percent above the amount authorized by the Congress for FY 2005. Of the total amount \$50 billion was authorized to support the day-to-day military operations of American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. The legislation next goes to the full Senate for approval.

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